



Study on Social and Emotional Skills (SSES)



Frequently Asked Questions

How did my school / my child's school become involved in this study?

Your school is one of 34 schools randomly chosen to participate in a survey from which we will learn more about the social and emotional skills of students around the world. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) chose the Houston Independent School District (HISD) as the sole representative of the United States in this international study of social and emotional skills (SSES). Information from this survey will help HISD understand students' social and emotional learning in an educational setting and how that impacts student learning and well-being.

What skills does the study focus on?

The study will measure a set of social and emotional skills, based on the *Big Five* personality traits, plus compound skills, including:

- Task performance
- Emotional regulation
- Open-mindedness
- Engaging with others
- Collaboration

Compound skills are skills such as self-efficacy, self-reflection, and critical thinking.

The social and emotional skills captured in this survey align closely with the skills and characteristics that HISD aims to develop in every student to foster success in and beyond the classroom.

Why should my child participate?

If your child is selected, they will be one of 1,000 students within the district representing the U.S. in the study. This first group of children selected is participating in this fall's Field Study. Your child's responses will help the district improve our understanding of social and emotional learning in an educational setting and how that impacts student achievement.

Who is being asked to participate?

Students, parents, teachers, and principals will participate. Students ages 10 and 15 will be chosen from the randomly selected HISD schools. If a student is selected, a parent/guardian of the student will also be asked to participate. Additionally, one of the student's teachers and the school principal will be asked to participate. Participation is voluntary.

Who can see my child's answers?

All surveys will be submitted using a secure online survey tool and will be confidential. Data will be stored securely on a server in the United States and only accessible to the research team directly involved in the study (i.e., HISD Research and Accountability Department and the Houston Education Research Consortium). Data will only be used for research purposes and reported in the aggregate. Individual responses will not be seen by parents, teachers, or school principals.

My child receives support based on an IEP. Will this support be available while my child completes the survey?

Yes. While this survey is not an academic assessment, your child will have access to the same assessment supports included in his/her IEP (for example, extra time, oral directions).

Who will supervise the class while students participate?

The class will be supervised by survey administrators who have been trained for this study, have prior related experience, and have been approved by HISD. Additionally, a staff member from the school will be present at all times during the survey, which takes no more than 60 minutes.

What happens next?

Over the next few weeks, each student randomly selected to participate in the study will receive additional information about what to expect. Parents, teachers, and principals will receive more information, as well. In October and November, students will participate in the survey during the school day, based on a schedule facilitated by the campus survey coordinator. If you have additional questions or would like more information, please reach out to the HISD Research and Accountability Department at 713-556-6700 or oecdsses@houstonisd.org.